AMPUTATIONS. Leon Gillis, M.B.E., M.B., B.Ch.(Witwatersrand), M.Ch.Orth.(Liverpool), D.L.O.(London), F.R.C.S.(England), F.R.C.S.(Edinburgh), Hon. F.I.C.S.(Geneva). Grune & Stratton, New York, 1954. 423 pages, $12.75.

This monograph, *Amputations*, is a comprehensive textbook containing invaluable material pinpointing the guiding principles and modern techniques. Particular discussion concerning obsolete operative procedures heretofore perpetuated in general surgery texts is one of the main themes running through the entire presentation. The methods to prevent these older common errors are interwoven throughout the text with definitely organized planning.

Each of the twenty chapters of the book of more than 400 pages is clearly written to direct purposeful surgical action in conditions requiring amputation, not only in accordance with time-tested principles, but also to explain advances made possible by more recent surgical experience and rehabilitation with mechanically improved prostheses.

A successful method of neo-arthrosis of the shaft of the humerus is an example of one of these advances; others include more practical schemes to enlist residual function in upper extremity amputation stumps by plastic reconstruction. Much of the contrary teaching of the past, little more than mummery of ancient dicta, is corrected by ample logical discussion.

The numerous clear illustrations are unusually pertinent, serving as extremely valuable visual stimulants to further exploration and study of the text.

* * *

DEMONSTRATIONS OF PHYSICAL SIGNS IN CLINICAL SURGERY—12th ed. Hamilton Bailey, F.R.C.S.(Eng.), F.A.C.S., F.R.S.E., Emeritus Surgeon, Royal Northern Hospital, London. Assisted by Allan Clain, M.B.(Cape Town), F.R.C.S.(Eng.), Senior Surgical Registrar, Royal Cancer Hospital, London. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1954. 456 pages, $8.00.

The art of a physical examination is rapidly becoming a lost art in these days of highly specialized techniques and the application of biophysical instruments to the study of clinical pathological, physiological states. Nevertheless, there is a great need for a simple, clear book on the physical signs of clinical surgery and the book by Bailey serves this purpose admirably.

The majority of surgical disorders are still diagnosed essentially by inspection and palpation, percussion and auscultation and this book is a masterpiece of presentation of the physical signs of clinical surgery.

It can be strongly recommended to medical students and to the practicing physician who is interested in sharpening his diagnostic acumen from proper interpretation, understanding of physical signs and clinical surgery. It is the best book in its field in this area and it can be strongly recommended.

* * *

NEUROLOGY—3 vols.—2nd ed. S. A. Kinnier Wilson, M.A., M.D., D.Sc.(Edin.), F.R.C.P., formerly Physician, National Hospital, Queen Square; Senior Neurologist, King's College Hospital. Edited by A. Ninian Bruce, F.R.C.P.(Edin.), D.Sc.(Edin.), M.D., F.R.S.(Edin.), Lt.-Col. R.A.M.C., Consulting Physician, Bangour Mental Hospital and St. Andrew's Hospital, Hawick. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1955. 2060 pages, plus 99 pages of index, $37.50.

It will soon be twenty years since the death of Kinnier Wilson. His textbook of neurology was unfinished at his death, and the task of getting the material in shape for publication was undertaken ably by Dr. Bruce, who has now brought out a second edition of the work. In the second edition are included a chapter on Aphasia, Apraxia, and Agnosia by Sir Russell Brain, thus making up this deficit of the original text, as well as a bringing up-to-date of the portion dealing with the treatment of neurosyphilis which has changed so markedly in the interval. Other additions have been made to encompass modern progress in the subject, but without changing the greatest asset the book possesses, which is Wilson's clear and polished mode of expression. In all, the necessary changes have resulted in a book which will continue to hold its place as preeminent among textbooks of neurology in the English language. It is now contained in three volumes of about 600 pages of text each, and forms the best reference work on the subject with which the reviewer has come in contact. Although it cannot attain the encyclopedic coverage of compendia written by many experts in the various fields, it has the great advantage of presenting one man's critical evaluation of the whole field of neurology, and for this reason is highly recommended.

* * *

A TEXTBOOK OF PHYSIOLOGY—17th Edition. Edited by John F. Fulton, M.D., Sterling Professor of the History of Medicine, Yale University School of Medicine. W. B. Saunders, Philadelphia, 1955. 1275 pages, 600 illustrations, $13.50.

Five years have elapsed since the previous edition of this book; by this time there is little material recognizable as remaining from the fifty-year-old Howell. This volume represents the combined efforts of thirty contributors and the editor, each of whom has excellent command of his respective field. It is an advanced, detailed and generally up-to-date textbook. For the beginning medical student it represents heavy going and is definitely not in the category of a quick and handy survey of the field of physiology. Of the available advanced modern textbooks, it should be awarded first place as a sound reference work, but the practicing doctor will not find physiological principles neatly tied to clinical problems, as is the case with one of the major English textbooks of physiology and another from the Canadian group. For those in search of a quick review to prepare for state or national board examinations, Fulton will be useful chiefly to those whose background in physiology is relatively complete and recent. For the more advanced graduate preparing for specialty boards this text should serve an extremely useful purpose for topical reference.

This book divides the topics into twelve sections. The first four deal with the physiology of nerve, muscle and the central nervous system; blood, circulation, and respiration occupy the next three sections. One section is devoted to each of the following: body fluids and kidney functions; digestion; metabolism and nutrition; endocrine system; and the physiology of reproduction. By far the largest group of sections in the text concern the special field of the editor and reflect his preoccupation with this aspect of physiology. In the opinion of the reviewer the text is overburdened with nervous system physiology, although it is extremely well done. The organization of the book suffers somewhat from too rigid adherence to the traditional division of material by systems, a pattern to some extent enforced by multiple authorship of the various chapters and sections.

Portions of the book rewritten since the sixteenth edition include the first seven chapters covering nervous system and muscle. It is gratifying to note that muscle physiology has come of age. The stultifying preoccupation with twitching frog muscle has given way to an interesting combination of functional and metabolic aspects of muscle physiology, up-to-date and clearly related to medical problems. The chapters on Body Fluids and Kidney Function